#13981800001 ID:88079792 HD 170 .C46 1987 no.5

CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *May 1987*

HODEL VISITS SERVICE CENTER

Interior Secretary Donald Hodel visited the Service Center on April 2 to receive a status briefing on the ALMRS Project. He spent almost 2 hours learning details of the future Automated Lands and Minerals Records System with Brian Bernard, ALMRS-GIS Project Manager.

Hodel's entourage included DOI Assistant Secretary for Lands and Renewable Resources Steven Griles, Solicitor General James Richards and BLM Director Bob Burford. The Secretary's wife, Barbara, accompanied him and contributed to discussions.

In Washington the Hodels both work on personal computers in their spare time. According to Bernard, this background helped make them a responsive audience. "I was very impressed with the Secretary's understanding of system design and development. He understands the need for ALMRS and was very interested in how we are accomplishing our mission."

After the initial hour presentation, the Secretary was shown the ALMRS Prototype where the demonstrations of future ALMRS capabilities were shown. The Data Flow Diagram (DFD) method of determining field user requirements was highlighted. Hodel was also shown a flowchart of processes to be tested during the Farmington Demonstration Project.

Hodel's visit coincided with the quarterly Bureau Management Team meeting, held in Denver for the first time since November of 1985. The BMT is composed of BLM's top executives—all State Directors, SCD Bob Moore, Director Burford, and other Headquarters officials.

The BMT and Hodel's visit kept many SC employees busy. The Tech Transfer Staff provided planning and graphics support for the Hodel briefing and choreographed Tuesday's BMT presentation session. Bob Moore hosted the BMT meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. His secretary, Cathy Davis, ran BMT logistics including a full office at the hotel complete with an FTS line and word processing. All presenters during both events did an excellent job of conveying a professional SC approach to problem solving using modern technologies.

PHOTO BY STEVE JUDISH

Brian Bernard (right) explains ALMRS to (l to r) Bob Burford, Donald Hodel, Steven Griles and Jim Cason.

Cuplin Retires

In February Paul Cuplin was roasted and toasted at a retirement luncheon. The last 17 years of his long and distinguished career were with the SC.

Paul was born in Ainsworth, NE, but in his own words left as soon as he learned to read a roadmap. His first federal job was in the Navy during WW II. (An old friend of Paul's told how he talked Paul into signing up with him but was rejected for medical reasons and Paul was left to serve for the duration of the war.) While in the service Paul's most notable exploit was on a destroyer that captured a German submarine and towed it back to the U.S. (Fellow biologists speculate that this was the stimulus for a lifelong interest in fishing and fisheries.) Work on the railroads, college and grad school followed.

After school, Paul landed a job with Idaho Fish and Game where he set up their hatchery system for salmon and steelhead.

Paul came to the SC in 1971 as the senior Fisheries Biologoist on the Wildlife Staff. He brought much needed expertise and was soon in demand to help field offices. His work here, interrupted by a tour in Washington, earned him recognition as one of the major leaders in riparian management and as a pioneer in the use of remote sensing to inventory and monitor riparian areas.

The retirement luncheon was a black-tie affair (colleagues issued black plastic ties at the door). Staffers recalled how Paul had single-handedly covered much of the east side of a new local hotel with black plastic so that a guest speaker could show slides. The luncheon featured many black plastic skits and gags. Paul officially retired on January 3, but by prearrangement came back to finish some projects. One wag wondered why, after over 40 years of government service Paul had to return for two months to finish the job.

On a serious note, many told of Paul's numerous achievements, and Bob Moore presented him with a special achievement award. BLM and the fisheries profession will be hard-pressed to fill Paul's shoes, and his many friends will miss him.

The Grace and Power of Judo

What do you think of when someone mentions Judo or Karate? Bruce Lee dispatching opponents by the dozen? The Kung Fu television series? Black belts breaking boards with their heads?

For Harry Larkins, a Supervisory Property Utilization Specialist in the Branch of Personal Property, and his family, Judo and other martial arts have resulted in much community service, striving for excellence, and realizing physical and mental potential most of us never achieve. Indeed Judo teaching, competition, refereeing, and practice have become a way of life for the Larkins.

Harry, a Fourth Degree Black Belt, began studying Judo in 1960 with his wife and daughter. A student of Karate and Aikido, Harry took up Judo so he could study a martial art with his family. Harry is a nationally certified instuctor and coach who has refereed at local, regional and national tournaments. He also teaches Judo serveral nights a week.

Harry's wife Verna, a Third Degree Black Belt, is a past president of the Colorado Judo League and is serving her second 4-year term as Secretary of the National Governing Body for Judo. A Judo instructor for 6 years at Denver University, Verna is as deeply immersed in the world of Judo as Harry.

Harry's son Bruce started learning Judo when he was just five. Now a Third Degree Black Belt, Bruce has been a National and International champion eight times! An entire room in Harry's house is devoted to Bruce's trophies, medals, certificates, and ribbons. Harry's pride in his son's accomplishments is unmistakable as he shows off a sword given to Bruce in South Africa by an old tribesman who wished to pay tribute to Bruce's skill and spirit. Incidentally, Bruce is now married and the father of a 5-year old Judo student.

It quickly becomes clear in talking with Harry that Judo isn't just an ego trip or exercise in machismo. It is, for the serious student, a way of life requiring great dedication and effort along with offering numerous rewards.

"Many people start Judo to learn self-defense," observes Harry. However, they soon discover that "the philosphy behind Judo, or any of the martial arts, is the building of confidence and the development of coordination, balance, and complete control of mind and body." These qualities, while useful in self-defense, have obvious advantages for all aspects of life.

Harry, Verna, and Bruce will be speaking and demonstrating Judo as part of Asian Pacific Week Observance. Come and see for yourself the grace and power of this most interesting sport.

(by Bob Woerner)

Remote Entry of T&As

Are you tired of the scowls and scoldings you get from your timekeeper when you say you need to take leave this pay period after the T&As have been submitted? Are you tired of waiting four to six weeks for the pay associated with the emergency overtime you worked on the last Saturday of the pay period? Are you tired of being told by your timekeeper that the pay you were shorted was Payroll's fault, only to have them tell you it was Personnel's fault, and then have them say it was your timekeeper's fault?

These are a few of the many payroll issues and problems that will be addressed in the development of the Remote Entry of T&A Report System (RETARS) currently underway. The system is being developed by a team drawn from the SC's Divisions of Finance, Computer Applications, and Computer Operations.

The system envisions T&As being input via terminals from every location in BLM. The T&As will be input on the Monday following the end of the pay period instead of being mailed the Monday before the end of the pay period, as some offices are now doing. This feature alone should drastically reduce the number of employee pay and leave errors. The user friendly system will have edits that will also cut down on the number of errors. In short, the sytem is designed to increase the accuracy of employees' pay and leave.

Now if we could only convince the Department of the Treasury to move our payday back six days to where it used to be...

Borrowed or Strayed

Have you borrowed or seen a copy of A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America by Robins, Bruun, and Zim? It disappeared from Tech Transfer and belongs to Ray Boyd. If found, please notify Ray (6-6310). Also Lost: 4 copies of The 1987 Conservation Directory. They were shipped by the National Wildlife Federation to the SC, February 11. They should have been delivered to D-470 and have never shown up. If you have seen them call Allen Cooperrider, 6-0161.

Editor's Lament

As I've heard from smokers and non,
It's clear that the battle is on.
You're very clever; your messages clear
But now it's smoky warfare I fear.
As rebuttals and voices mount higher
I plead—**cease fire!**

BUYING A MICRO

Not long ago, if you were in a small office or had a limited budget, automated data processing was limited if not non-existent. Microcomputers have come of age with over 10,000 software packages available for micros. Almost every office can justify the need for automating their daily assignments.

Once you decide to purchase a micro, it's important to proceed carefully to ensure that you get a system that will meet your needs. Microcomputer systems are comprised of an assortment of components varying in size and price. To determine which system you should buy, make a checklist of the components you will need including a system unit, monitor (monochrome or color), and monitor card to drive it, keyboard, floppy disk and hard disk storage device with controller card, battery backed-up clock/calendar, serial port, dot matrix printer, parallel port and printer cable to connect the printer, and surge protector.

Your next step is to determine the kind and quality of the components and the overall price of the system. Basically the price of the micro can be attributed to four main factors: overall quality of the equipment and service; processor purchased; components selected to accompany the micro; and performance or storage capacity of the components.

Your first consideration should be the quality of the component. The warranty period is often a good clue in determining what you will be getting. A good warranty will last at least one year, anything less and the quality of the product shoud be questioned. Generally, brand name products such as IBM, COMPAQ, UNISYS (SPERRY) or NCR insure a higher quality product, though at a little higher price. If a system is likely to receive heavy use, the extra quality of a brand name product is well worth the added expense. Where heavy use is not projected or the user is knowledgeable about microcomputers, a less expensive model would be in order.

(by Jeff Uhlich and Gary Maruska)